

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 NEW DE 07619 271120Z

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /100 W

-----280307Z 078405 /20

R 270634Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3683

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 7619

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO BOMBAY AND CALCUTTA
FROM MADRAS MAY 26, 1977 REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRAS 0890

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EGEN, IN

SUBJECT: ASAMERA OIL DRILLING BESET WITH FURTHER PROBLEMS

REF: MADRAS 0776 AND PREVIOUS

1. THE ASAMERA HARD LUCK STORY CONTINUES AS FURTHER DELAYS
ARE CAUSED BY A COMBINATION OF BAD WEATHER, CREW PROBLEMS,
AND FINALLY A CAVE-IN.

2. SINCE GLOMWR III BEGAN EXPLORATORY DRILLING IN THE NORTHERN
PART OF THE GULF OF MANNAR ON MAY 8, THE WEATHER HAS
PERMITTED ONLY ABOUT FIVE DAYS OF NORMAL DRILLING PROGRESS.
HEAVY SWELLS, REFLECTING OFF A REEF NEAR THE DRILLING SITE,
HAVE CAUSED VERY CONFUSED SEAS. A SUPPLY BARGE WHICH WAS
ANCHORED NEAR THE SITE HAD TO BE WITHDRAWN TO TUTICORIN,
THE NEAREST MAJOR PORT, AND SUPPLIES ARE NOT TRANSPORTED
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NEW DE 07619 271120Z

FROM TUTICORIN TO GLOMAR IN TWO 160 FOOT SUPPLY BOATS AS
WEATHER PERMITS. BETTER WEATHER IS EXPECTED DURING
THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

3. GLOMAR HAS A CREW OF 68 OF WHICH ABOUT HALF ARE
INDIAN. ALTHOUGH THE INDIAN CREW MEMBERS WERE
CAREFULLY SELECTED AND WELL-PAID, 14 DRILLERS RESIGNED

BEFORE COMPLETING THEIR FIRST 28 DAY STINT. (THE DRILLING CREWS WORK A 12-HOUR SHIFT FOR 28 DAYS, THEN HAVE 28 DAYS OFF WITH FULL PAY.) NEW DRILLERS HAVE BEEN HIRED, BUT THE TRAINING WILL NOW HAVE TO START OVER AGAIN. FORTUNATELY, THERE HAS BEEN NO PROBLEM WITH THE ALL-INDIAN GALLEY STAFF AND SHIP MAINTENANCE CREW.

4. TO ADD A FINAL TOUCH, THE HOLD CAVED IN TWO DAYS AGO AT ABOUT 400 FEET. A 31-INCH STEEL AND CONCRETE CASING HAD BEEN INSTALLED DOWN TO 250 FEET, BUT BEYOND THAT THE SANDY STRATA COLLAPSED. THE DRILL WAS REMOVED WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY AND AN ATTEMPT IS NOW BEING MADE TO FLUSH THE DEBRIS OUT OF THE HOLE. IF THIS IS UNSUCCESSFUL, DRILLING WILL HAVE TO BE STARTED AGAIN AT A POINT ABOUT 60 FEET AWAY FROM THE ORIGINAL HOLE. THE DECISION WILL BE MADE TOMORROW. THE FIRST HORIZON (LIKELY OIL BEARING STRATA) IS STILL A LONG WAY AWAY AT 7,000 FEET. WE HESITATED TO ASK WHEN THE BOTTOM, AT 14,000 FEET, WILL BE REACHED.

5. ASAMERA REPRESENTATIVE SHRIRAM IS STILL CHEERFUL AND INSISTS THAT THESE ARE JUST THE USUAL START-UP PROBLEMS. WE HAD A CHANCE TO MEET M. E. KITTLESON, EXECUTIVE VP, ASAMERA OIL (INDIA) LTD., WHO SHARES SHRIRAM'S OPTIMISM. KITTLESON, WHO IS ALSO EXECUTIVE VP, ASAMERA OIL (INDONESIA) LTD., OPERATES OUT OF SINGAPORE AND IS HERE FOR A FEW DAYS ON THAT HE DESCRIBED AS A COMPLETELY ROUTINE VISIT. SIGNED MCCASKILL

UNQUOTE

GOHEEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 NEW DE 07619 271120Z

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, EXPLORATORY DRILLING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NEWDE07619
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770191-0150
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770510/aaaaahwp.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: eb28c486-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MADRAS 776
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2313857
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASAMERA OIL DRILLING BESET WITH FURTHER PROBLEMS
TAGS: ENRG, EGEN, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/eb28c486-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009